

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate comprising the steps of: casting a steel consisting essentially of 0.02 to 0.18% C, 0.05 to 0.5% Si, 0.5 to 2.0% Mn, 0.005 to 0.1% Al, 0.0005 to 0.008% N, 0.03% or less P, 0.03% or less S, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities; hot-rolling the cast steel without cooling the steel to the Ar₃ transformation point or lower temperature, or after reheating the steel to the Ac₃ transformation point or higher temperature, to a specified plate thickness; cooling the steel by direct quenching from the Ar₃ transformation point or higher temperature, or by accelerated cooling, to 400°C or lower temperature; and then tempering the steel, using a heating apparatus being installed directly connecting the manufacturing line containing a rolling mill and a direct-quenching apparatus or an accelerated cooling apparatus, to 520°C or above of the maximum ultimate temperature at the plate thickness center portion at an average temperature-rising rate of 1°C /s or larger

at the plate thickness center portion up to a specified tempering temperature between 460°C and the Ac₁ transformation point.

2. (original) A method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate comprising the steps of: casting a steel consisting essentially of 0.02 to 0.18% C, 0.05 to 0.5% Si, 0.5 to 2.0% Mn, 0.005 to 0.1% Al, 0.0005 to 0.008% N, 0.03% or less P, 0.03% or less S, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities; hot-rolling the cast steel without cooling the steel to the Ar₃ transformation point or lower temperature, or after reheating the steel to the Ac₃ transformation point or higher temperature, to a specified plate thickness; cooling the steel by direct quenching from the Ar₃ transformation point or higher temperature, or by accelerated cooling, to 400°C or lower temperature; and then tempering the steel, using a heating apparatus being installed directly connecting the manufacturing line containing a rolling mill and a direct-quenching apparatus or an accelerated cooling apparatus, to 520°C or above of the maximum ultimate temperature at the plate thickness center portion at an average temperature-rising rate of smaller than 1°C / s at the plate thickness center portion between the tempering-start temperature and 460°C, and at an average temperature-rising rate of 1°C / s or larger at the plate

thickness center portion up to a specified tempering temperature between 460°C and the Ac₁ transformation point.

3. (currently amended) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 2% or less Cu, 4% or less Ni, 2% or less Cr, and 1% or less Mo, by mass.

4. (currently amended) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

5. (currently amended) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

6. (currently amended) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

7. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 2% or less Cu, 4% or less Ni, 2% or less Cr, and 1% or less Mo, by mass.

8. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

9. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 3, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

10. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 7, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.05% or less Nb, 0.5% or less V, and 0.03% or less Ti, by mass.

11. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 2, wherein the steel

further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

12. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 3, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

13. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 4, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

14. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 7, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

15. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 8, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

16. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 9, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

17. (new) The method for manufacturing high tensile strength steel plate according to claim 10, wherein the steel further contains one or more of 0.003% or less B, 0.01% or less Ca, 0.02% or less REM, and 0.01% or less Mg, by mass.

18. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 2 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

19. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 3 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

20. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 4 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

21. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 5 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

22. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 7 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

23. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 8 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

24. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 9 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

25. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 10 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

26. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 11 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

27. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 12 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

28. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 13 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

29. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 14 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

30. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 15 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

31. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 16 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.

32. (new) A steel plate manufactured by the manufacturing method according to Claim 17 being a high tensile strength steel plate for stress relief annealing.